

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

July 18, 2011

7:00 p.m.

The Council and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pucci: "Mary-Jo, will you please call the roll?"

Clerk Banish: "Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Tom Murphy."

Councilman Magrey: "Here."
Councilman Tanski: "Here."

President Pucci: "Mr. Murphy is excused this evening, he's on vacation."

Clerk Banish: "Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Here."
Councilman DeMarco: "Here."
Councilman Patta: "Here."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Here."

President Pucci: "And for the record, Mayor Balbier is also on vacation. Next we'll have the reading of the agenda. Public participation for agenda items only; bid approval for the 2011 repair and resurfacing of various streets; liquor permit request; Conditional Use Approval; Ordinance 2011-41, Providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to the municipal Charter; Ordinance 2011-42, Establishing party rental fees for the use of the City of Brooklyn ice rink complex for group party rentals; Ordinance 2011-43, Authorizing the purchase of one Warren salt spreader from Jones Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$16,770; Ordinance 2011-44, Providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to the municipal Charter; and adjournment. Next we'll have public participation. If anybody has anything to say for the good and welfare of the City of Brooklyn, please step up to the microphone, state your name and address for the record, and please observe our five minute time limit."

Councilman Magrey: "May I be recognized please Mrs. Pucci?"

President Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman Magrey: "I notice an echo..."

Clerk Banish: "It just started."

Councilman Magrey: "Is there a problem with the sound system?"

President Pucci: "Testing. Does everyone want to test their microphone?"

Clerk Banish: "I think it stopped."

President Pucci: "Okay."

Councilman Magrey: "Can you hear us in the back okay?"

Councilman DeMarco: "I think it stopped now."

President Pucci: "Okay, thank you."

Earl Bloam: "My name is Earl Bloam, I live at 4720 Forestedge Drive. I've been a resident of Brooklyn for 45 years. And I am presently a member of the Charter Commission. I'd like to address the issue of Ordinance #44, it deals with Council size and the ward system. The Charter Commission looked at these two issues early when we started to meet, and almost unanimously we voted them down, because we felt they were not good for the City of Brooklyn. The first one deals with the Council size. Presently Council has 21 committees' representatives, including Council President, and President Pro-Tem. So this averages out to three committee memberships per Councilmember, plus two Council meetings per month, plus any special meetings. In addition, the Councilmembers have to respond to other issues when called upon by the citizens

of our city. This is a lot of time for a part-time job, and I commend them for their commitment. Now the issue of reducing to five Councilmembers, now Council has four committee representative positions, plus Council meetings and citizen responses. With more time required per Councilmember, I feel that this would discourage our young people with families, working full-time, and with all their family responsibilities, from considering running for Council, because of the time commitment. This means that the pool of potential Council candidates would be slanted to our retired senior citizens. Now don't get me wrong, I believe very strongly in the capabilities of our senior citizens to serve on Council. But I feel that we should be encouraging our younger people to run and get involved in the politics. And by the way, if you haven't noticed, I'm a senior citizen too, and I can assure you I'm not running for public office. Reducing Council may save a little money in the near term, but in private industry, increased responsibility usually results in increased pay, or the hiring of more staff. Now I'm not saying this is going to happen in Brooklyn, but these near... in savings may get lost in the future. You know the old adage, a penny saved is a pound foolish. We all know that running our city is not going to get any simpler in the future, with the federal, state and fiscal requirements. Along with the increased time requirements for each Councilmember, I believe we need the collective thinking of seven Councilmembers and not five. And lastly, I think that this weakens the power of the Mayor, as a reduced Council size would mean less Council votes required to override a Mayoral veto. So in summary, increased time required per Councilmember, discouraging younger candidates, no money saved in the long-term, complexity of running our city requires the collective thinking of seven people with diverse backgrounds, and it weakens the power of the Mayor. Again, the Charter Commission felt this was wrong, they voted almost unanimously to reject this. It received only one supporting vote.

The other issue, Brooklyn wards. Again, the Charter Commission looked at this and voted it down. Almost unanimously. It received only one positive vote. Let's look at what a ward system would mean in the city. It would limit the voting rights of each of our citizens. The ward system requires voting for ward candidates that may not be the best candidates for our city. The best candidates may be in other wards. But in your ward, if you don't like the candidate that's running, you have no opportunity to vote for the candidates from the other wards. The ward system limits the possibility of the best candidates being elected to Council. The best candidates may live in the same ward, but only one would be elected. And again, if you don't live in that ward, you can't vote for them. Who do you call to resolve a problem that needs Council's help? Right now I can call on any of the seven Councilmembers, and move down the line if I don't receive help from one of them. With wards, you call your ward Councilmember, and if he doesn't help, you're out of luck. New Councilmembers. The ward system enables an individual with a limited visibility within our community to be elected to Council, because that individual may be popular in that one ward. But that individual may not be the best choice overall for our city. I believe the ward system encourages parochialism at the expense of the city. Today the city is faced with limited financial resources, and this dilemma will continue to grow. Ward Councilmembers are encouraged to bring the money and services to their wards. This may result in them putting the ward interests ahead of what is best for the city overall. Example, money for road repair. All wards want to have a share of the pie. Some wards may have more severe problems than other wards, but each ward would still share equally, and some wards possibly may not need the money. Now let's look at the cost. There will be a cost to the City of Brooklyn to implement the ward system. Parma Hts., when they implemented theirs, had to hire a private consultant, and it was for big bucks. And incidentally, from what I hear, a lot of people think it's a disaster there. So in summary about our ward system, it limits our voting rights, it limits the best candidates from being elected, it restricts your ability to get Council response, it encourages elections of less qualified Councilmembers, it encourages parochialism, and it has a large cost to implement. The bottom line, the Charter Commission did not recommend, by their votes, either reducing Council size or going to the ward system. Thank you."

Tom Adamski: "Tom Adamski, 9625 Melody Lane. Also Charter Commission member. And I've been a resident for 30 years. I have questions that I'd like to direct to Mr. Platta (Patta) on Ordinance 2011-44, which is for reduction of Council from seven to five, and the ward system. Mr. Platta... Patta. I'm sorry. I question your intent of why you waited until the Council sessions were over, and then requested an emergency session, which evidently to me means that you're going to try to pass this ordinance as an emergency basis. In the past you've always objected to Council passing on emergency basis, because by law it requires three public readings. But evidently Council is in summer session. While I do not dispute that Council has the authority to recommend Charter changes, I feel that your ordinance is not for the betterment, but is politically motivated towards your endorsement of Mary Lee Bowen, also a Charter Commission member, who was an avid advocate to this particular ordinance. During all meetings of the Charter Commission, through all Council meetings, I, and a majority of the members, did not receive any

calls, no e-mails, even though the minutes were provided on the internet. I did not see any resident come to the podium during Council meetings; nor where there any residents in attendance that voiced their comments regarding this issue. In the June 27th meeting, I quote out of context, and you made the comments, that the committee members should be liberal even though they don't agree. I find this kind of ludicrous. The Charter Commission members were appointed, two by the Mayor and the rest by each Council. We had long discussions; and even though there is disagreement, I still respect the interest that a certain commission member advocated for discussion. My particular concern about the Council, as stated by Mr. Bloam, is the time element, and the amount of minutes, research, and discussions that involved in various committees, the time element of setting up public meetings, or private meetings.

As far as wards, my particular opinion is, I would not want to see fighting among wards for funds. Obviously we have infrastructure problems, and other particular problems. Council at large, as Mr. Bloam has said, we can address to any particular Council. These are my opinions, and I would recommend to Council that you reject Ordinance 2011-44. Thank you for your time.

Rob Slattery: "Rob Slattery, 4396 W. 62nd Street. I've come up here and asked questions meeting after meeting, and I've never got any answers, so I don't expect anything tonight. But I'll still wait till the end to see if anybody wants to stand up and answer this. If I read on the internet right, on the city's website, that you're looking, there's possible changes to the Charter for Article 5, Section 3, pertaining to the changes to Finance Director, looking at removing the wording of him acting as Clerk of Council, the secretary of Planning Commission, and also the secretary of Civil Service Commission. Now the way the city has gone after Police Department, Service workers, and I'm sure they're going after the Fire now with union contracts, if you're going to take responsibilities away from him, I would say that that demands a reduction in pay. And I want to know if that's in the plans."

President Pucci: "Does anyone else have anything to say for the good and welfare of the City of Brooklyn?"

Mary Lee Bowen: "Good evening everyone. My name is Mary Lee Bowen, I live at 4783 Tiedeman Road. I'm co-chair of the Charter Review Commission. And since some of my fellow commission members have spoken, and mentioned me specifically, I think it's important that I respond to that. I have been, and always will be, a voter advocate for voters in this city. You all know that two years ago I carried two petitions throughout this city, with help from a small group of people, to give voters the right to vote on issues of great importance to the city. I will continue that practice always, and have said that I will. As a member of the Charter Review Commission, I have been very concerned from all beginning, that when issues arose to be discussed, it was obvious that it was pretty much the majority against the minority, in giving voters the right to have a voice and vote on issues of importance. To begin with, I think it's very important that there are only nine people on the commission. There are thousands of voters in this city. Voters that should have a vote and a voice on what we do with their precious tax dollars. The issue of wards. Let's begin with that. In this city, many services have been cut. Many jobs have been lost as a result of that. But Council does not want to reduce their size from seven to five. I think that's wrong, and I think it should go to the voters for them to decide, not for the commission to block it from going on the ballot so that voters can have a voice in this. Having wards would take it down from four years in term to two, which has additional benefits. The benefits are that it would be appropriate to get more innovation and current resident representation. With regard to the issue of having wards, I think it would be important for representation from these individual geographic areas to come from that area. And who are we to say that there are not people in those areas that could best serve their areas, or their ward? I don't think that should be nine people making that decision; I think that should go to the voters as well. Reduction of Council I think is appropriate and needed, and long overdue. I think wards is very important for the future of this city, and to strengthen this city, and to give this city a stronger voice. If anybody would like to talk to me about these issues, as always you can call me or talk to me. 941-7562, or maryleeblowen@earthlink.net. Thank you."

Audience member: "Good evening. Council President Pucci, members of Council, directors, residents. I too would like to speak regarding issues 2011-44 and 2011-41. I'm here primarily to support and echo the statements of Mr. Bloam and Mr. Adamski. They spoke more eloquently and put it in better perspective than I think I could do. I respect the process a great deal. Yes sir."

From audience: "Are you going to identify yourself?"

Mrs. Ritter: "I beg your pardon. I've made that error before. I'm so sorry."

President Pucci: "Thank you."

Paula Ritter: "My name is Paula Ritter, I live at 8974 Boxwood Circle, Brooklyn, Ohio. I'm a resident of Brooklyn for approximately 45 years. And also a member of the Charter Review. And I apologize for that omission. I believe in the process. The process is good. It began, I believe, in 1981 with the Charter Review, that we first make recommendations, and now that Council must put those on the ballot. I believe in the process in so far as Council too can put any Charter amendment on the ballot. I believe in the process where a resident can do an initiative petition and place any revision on the ballot. I think the process works. I also believe in majority rules in making decisions. I think we operated fairly. We tried hard. I'm not here to confront Mary Lee, because that's not fair. I do not understand how wards would limit Councilmembers terms to two years. I think those were the two most highly discussed issues. A lot of research went into it. There was information from other cities our size, looking into whether they had wards or did not, checking to see how they worked. There was personal discussion, at least I had one, and I'm sure others did, with public official from Parma Hts., seeing how that was going. A lot of research was done on wards and on reducing Council term. But the more pleasant thing I'm here for is to thank all those who helped us get information, and who gave of their time to come to Council. I would like to thank Council President Mrs. Pucci. I would like to thank Councilperson Mr. Tanski and Councilperson Tom Murphy. I believe, in fact, they came to the meetings, made themselves available to answer any questions we might have. And I believe Mr. Murphy actually came to three meetings. But it was comforting to have a Councilmember if there were a question that we were unsure of. I want to also thank Mrs. Pucci for putting together a list of concerns, things that we might want to look into. And I cannot read her comments specifically, but she made it quite clear that this was not put together to influence us, but we might be interested in looking at these items. It was a great help. I want to thank Mr. Ockington and Mr. Kennedy, and Mary-Jo Banish, who came at our request to provide us with information regarding issues that we felt needed clarification. These people are all very busy people, and they gave of their time. Mr. Patta did not come, so I did not assume until the last regularly scheduled Council meeting that he had a concern. I was quite aware of the last regularly scheduled Council meeting. And I thank you very much for your time. Excuse me. I want to thank Jill, who served as our clerk. God bless her."

Greg Frey: "My name is Greg Frey, I live at 9493 Idlewood Drive, Brooklyn, Ohio, and I'm the Chairman of the Charter Review Commission. And first and foremost, I want to thank the Council and the Mayor for the privilege of serving on the Charter Review Commission. I want to thank the members for naming me the chairman of the Charter Review Commission. It has been an honor to be associated with it. Our Charter requires that every six years we have a Charter Review. Citizens, nine citizens of the City of Brooklyn, two appointed by the Mayor, one each by each of the Councilmembers, are appointed to review the Charter and suggest or recommend any changes that might better the Charter for the residents and taxpayers of the City of Brooklyn. I believe we very thoroughly and comprehensively did that. We spent a great deal of time discussing a great deal of information, reviewing it, reading it, talking about it, trying to figure out what things rose to the level of we ought to be changing this for the better of the city. I will report in a few minutes, I believe, on the changes that we are recommending. And those changes we recommend to you, the people of Brooklyn, to vote for. I will read the language you'll see on your ballot in November. I hope you will vote for those issues."

Regarding the two issues that have been talked about here tonight, the ward system and the reduction in the size of Council. Regarding the reduction of size in Council, make no mistake, you reduce the number of Councilmembers, you're going to reduce the representation that you have to your elected officials. It cannot be otherwise. Instead of having seven people that are responsible to you, you have five. That is a reduction in your representation. Those people act on your behalf. You get a chance every two or four years to vote as to whether or not they are representing you well. Our system has been in place for a long time. It has served us very good, in lean times and in good times. Regarding the ward system for Brooklyn. At a time when northern Ohio is increasingly, finally getting the message that they need to go bigger, that they need to consolidate services, activities, and benefits to taxpayers; when we're finally starting to get that, here in the City of Brooklyn it has been decided we need to pit neighborhood against neighborhood. That is wrong. It has always been wrong for Brooklyn. It's wrong for Brooklyn today; it will be wrong for Brooklyn tomorrow. We are 4.2 square miles. When it came up at the Charter Review Commission, I asked, could I see a map of what Brooklyn's going to look like with our new wards. What are the wards going to look like? What ward

would I be in? What ward would anybody else be in? I was shown a map of Parma Hts. I was told that once you, the voters, approve going to a ward system, then, and only then, the city will hire people, that don't live here, to come in here, and divide up our city by whatever matter. I don't know if it gets divided by income, by neighborhood, by job experience, by young people, by old. I have no idea what the criteria are. I don't know if the Council decides that, or who decides that. But that that would be done after the voters approve this. I was then encouraged to go talk to Mayor Byrne in Parma Hts., because Parma Hts. had recently adopted a ward system in their city. I did. I had lunch with Mayor Byrne. I asked him very specifically about ward system in Parma Hts. He don't like it. He was emphatic about he doesn't like it. It came about because of a Charter Review Commission, and a member on that Charter Review Commission. The voters passed it because it came from the Charter Review. We recommend to you what needs to be done for the City of Brooklyn. And it would be a disservice to you to put on either of those issues – the ward system in Brooklyn, or the reduction in the size of Council. I hope you reject it. I truly do. I would certainly vote against it if you put it on the ballot. It is not in our best interest. Thank you."

President Pucci: "Does anyone else have anything to say for the good and welfare of the City of Brooklyn?"

Barb Paulitzky: "Hi, Barb Paulitzky, 4795 Tiedeman Road. I wasn't planning on saying anything, but I'm listening to all this, and I'm thinking I just want to say a few things. First of all, anything that the Charter would recommend, you wouldn't be changing anything. The voters would be thinking yes, or no, or whatever. Urging things to be put on the ballot gives the voters the right to decide, once they have all the information. And Mr. Frey, you said when we say something like this that we are recommending to the voters that it's probably a good idea. Really? Well, think about the tax increase. Were you recommending that to the voters that it was a good idea because it was put on the ballot? It wasn't such a good idea, was it? Thank you."

President Pucci: "Does anyone else have anything to say for the good and welfare of the City of Brooklyn?"

Ron Van Kirk: "Hi, Ron Van Kirk, 10122 Manoa Avenue. I have been out of town for the last two weeks, and apparently I missed a lot in the last weeks. I was in California for some vacation. But I was also part of that Charter Review Committee. But we did go back and forth even about this issue after it was already an issue, as far as the wards and the reduction of the size of Council. And I'm a firm believer, as Miss Bowen says, in letting the people decide things. You know, I don't like the finger pointing, you know, back and forth on things, and I'm not going to express an opinion one way or the other on that, because that was all decided before I was even in there. But I do want to thank the Mayor and Council for allowing me to serve on the Charter Review Committee. It truly was a pleasure. Miss Bowen said a lot of the times she was the lone voice on some things; and I'll say the couple things that I wanted to put on there, I was the lone voice crying in the wilderness for that, and they got rejected. And that's part of the system, and I'm fine with that. But I would strongly encourage the voters, no matter what your opinion one way or the other is on things, do the research for yourself. Look at areas. Don't take my word for it. And don't take any other person's word for it. And do research. Figure it out for yourself. Is this something that is good for the City of Brooklyn? I firmly believe, whether you agree with these people sitting behind me or not, that they really do have the best interest of our city at heart. And they may disagree on how it is that we go about that, but I do truly believe that that is what they believe. As far as these things that will be put on the ballot, I believe if the five that we put, that there will be five on their for sure, the ones the Charter Review Committee put on there, I would encourage you to do research for yourself. Look at it and see if you think this is going to be something that's good for the City of Brooklyn. If it's not, vote no; if it is, vote yes. And if by some chance Council does pass this thing with the wards or with the City Council on there, look and see for yourself. Do your own research, and find out what the truth is in your mind, and then vote yes or no on it. But I do want to thank Mr. Frey. He did a wonderful job running those meetings. And then poor Jill, she's not here, but typing up all those minutes, 53-some odd pages, usually what those minutes were. And it was a privilege to serve on that committee, and I think it was an honor, and I thank Mayor and Council for allowing us to do that. And I just want to wish you guys the best in the future. Thank you."

President Pucci: "Does anyone else have anything to say for the good and welfare of the City of Brooklyn? Before we move forward, I just want to correct, for the record, Miss Bowen, you had stated that you were co-chair of the Charter Review Commission, and I believe you were pro-tem. But you stated co-chair, so I just wanted to correct the record. I'm sure it was an inadvertent error. Okay, we will move onto bid approval. For the 2011 repair and resurfacing of various streets. 'Dear Mayor and members of Council. At 12 noon

local time on Thursday, June 23, 2011, eight bids were received and opened for the above-referenced project. The Engineer's construction cost estimate for this project was \$667,504 and the submitted bids ranged from 2.9% below the Engineer's estimate to 20.9% above the estimate. The bids for all the sections of the work are summarized below and attached as a full tabulation of the bids for your review. After reviewing the bids, we have determined that the low bid, submitted by Konstruction King, would deliver a contract below the \$661,700 construction cost budget for this project. Also, Konstruction King has demonstrated the ability to complete projects of this scope and magnitude, and has previously completed a number of similar projects in the City of Brooklyn successfully. As such, we are recommending the award of this contract to Konstruction King in the amount of \$648,169. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this matter. Very truly yours, Douglas Courtney, City Engineer.' Does anyone have any comments or questions before we take a vote on this?"

Councilman DeMarco: "May I be recognized please?"

President Pucci: "Yes, Mr. DeMarco."

Councilman DeMarco: "Thank you. Just a couple quick things on this. First of all, it's the middle of July, and we're just now getting an opportunity to vote on the bid, to approve the bid for these construction projects that should have already been started. And in the documentation that we were provided, the contractor that we're voting to approve tonight is asking for 125 days to complete the work in the contract, which takes us out to, probably, honestly, sometime in the middle of November, end of November, at best. So I would just like to say that I haven't been on Council that long, but I imagine that this is probably the latest we've gotten this information to us, and frankly I think it's unacceptable. The second item, related to that, is, I have some information from a meeting of ours back in May. But I don't know, and maybe Mr. Kennedy, or something like that, you could just provide the Council at some later time, I don't see anything in here for what the fees are to Mr. Courtney and his company for their services. So I have something from, like I said, a meeting back in May, and I think the total fees, between inspection and engineering costs, were around \$65,000. I don't know if you have a final set of number that includes, but the bid from Konstruction King, plus Mr. Courtney's firm's fees, but if you could find out what that is at some point and get it to us, because I'd like to understand what the total scope of the project is in terms of cost. That's all I have, thank you."

President Pucci: "Thank you. Any other Councilmember? Okay, we need a motion to accept the bid from Konstruction King in the amount of \$648,169."

Councilman Magrey: "Move to accept."

Councilman Tanski: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To accept the bid of Konstruction King, Joe Magrey."	Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
"Kevin Tanski."	Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
"Kathy Pucci."	Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
"Tony DeMarco."	Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
"John Patta."	Councilman Patta: "Yes."
"Colleen Gallagher."	Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Next we have a liquor permit. This is for 7106 Biddulph Road, which I believe is the former Rooster's. And Mary-Jo did check with the Police Department, and there are no problems. And she did find out a little bit more information for us. Oh, Mr. Ockington did. Thank you Mr. Ockington. This is for spirituous liquor for on-premises consumption only, beer and wine, for on-premises and off-premises, and then off-premises in original sealed containers until 2:30 a.m., which is restaurants meeting certain criteria. That's the category. Does anyone have any comments or questions? We need to move for a position of no objection."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Move for no objection."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "For no objection, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Next we have the Conditional Use Approval for 4260 Ridge Road. 'Dear Members of Council. At a regular meeting of the Brooklyn Planning Commission to be held on July 14, 2011, the ADA Architects, Inc., representing Huntington National Bank, has requested Conditional Use Approval to construct a 1500 square foot financial establishment with drive-thru facilities in the RB-Retail Business Zoned District at the former BP fuel station site located at 4260 Ridge Road, PP#431-22-014. If the Planning Commission approves this request pursuant to the City of Brooklyn Zoning Code, Section 1141.02(A)(5) requires confirmation by a majority vote of City Council. If additional requirements are imposed by the Planning Commission, I will provide an amended request for Council confirmation letter at the Council meeting.' And this was approved by the Planning Commission with no additional requirements."

Comm. Ockington: "That's correct. And there's a representative here if you have any questions."

President Pucci: "Okay. Does any Councilmember have any comments or questions on this? And we all did receive the information on the building. Okay, then we need a motion to approve the Conditional Use."

Councilman Magrey: "Move to approve."

Councilman Tanski: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To approve the Conditional Use, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, before we consider Ordinance 2011-41, which are the Charter amendments that were recommended to us by the Charter Review Commission, Mr. Greg Frey is going to come up and give a report to Council on the Charter Review, the results of their Commission."

Mr. Greg Frey: "Thank you Mrs. Pucci. I'm Greg Frey, and I still live at 9493 Idlewood in Brooklyn. This year's Charter Review Commission has recommended five changes in the Charter that will appear on your November ballot. What I'd like to do is give you the substantive wording of each of the changes. They're pretty self-explanatory, but I will briefly try to explain as I can. Proposed Charter Amendments of the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. A majority of the affirmative votes of each proposal is necessary for the passage of that particular issue. Number 1, Shall Article 3, Section 6 titled 'Organization' of the Charter of the City of Brooklyn be amended to clarify and grant the President of City Council the authority to appoint three members of Council to the Finance Committee, Public Safety Committee and the Environmental Committee, three each, and the Public Works Committee? Yes or no. There were two kind of conflicting sections in the Charter. One referred to the Council, one referred to the Council President. We determined that it would be best served if the Council President made those appointments, and the Council confirmed those appointments. Number 2, Article 5, Section 1A, titled 'General Provisions' of the Charter of the City of Brooklyn be amended to incorporate the Building Department? At the time the original Charter was passed it was a different time and age regarding building standards and the importance of a Building Department. And the Building Commissioner was not included with the Finance Director, the Police Chief, Fire Chief, the other department heads. We concluded that it would be appropriate to include the Building Department in the Charter as a recognized department. So you will be asked to vote yes or no on that. Shall Article 5, Section 3, titled 'Finance Director' of the Charter of the City of Brooklyn be amended to eliminate the duties of the Finance Director to perform the roles of Clerk of Council, Secretary of the Planning Commission, and Secretary of the Civil Service Commission. In the past the Director of Finance has served as...the Director of Finance or his designee, has served as the Clerk of Council, Secretary of the Planning Commission, and

Secretary of the Civil Service Commission. We decided to change the definition of the Director of Finance to limit his duties to the Finance Department and the running of the Finance Department. It is indeed a very full time job. We run about a \$15 million a year budget, we have payroll, we have tax, we have residence services, and very many people and services that we provide that need to go through the Finance Department. So you will be asked to vote yes or no, shall these things be removed from the description of his job. Next, Shall Article 5, Section 4, titled, 'Duties of the Building Department' be amended to define the duties of the Building Commissioner and the Building Department? In this we brought in Mr. Ockington, who is our Building Commissioner, and we discussed this with him, and we kind of adopted the language that he suggested to provide a definition of what the Building Commissioner is. Is that correct Tom?"

Comm. Ockington: "That's correct."

Mr. Frey: "And then... And you will be asked to vote yes or no. Shall Article 11, Section 5, titled 'Terminology and Definitions of the Charter' be incorporated to clarify the Charter and specifically give the votes of appointed members of Council the same effect as elected members? Also to clarify that any affirmative vote of Council shall be based on the total numbers of the current Council and not the members present at that vote. Again, yes or no. You will be asked to vote that. What it would mean is that a majority of the total members of Council need to vote in order for Council to act. And if they are acting in like a veto situation, or where they need a super majority, again, that super majority would be of the seven members of Council, the total number of members of Council, in order to enact anything. And Section 4, the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this ordinance to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County and cause notice of the foregoing proposed Charter amendment to be given pursuant to Section 731.211 of the Revised Code of Ohio by publishing the full text of the foregoing proposed Charter amendment once a week for not less than two consecutive weeks, with the first publication being at least 15 days prior to the date of such election, in a newspaper published and of general circulation in the city. So you will see this published in the newspaper before the November ballot. You will see it on your November ballot. The Charter Review Commission suggests that you vote yes to all those things. We've deemed them important enough to put on the ballot for your consideration. Thank you and good evening."

President Pucci: "Thank you Mr. Frey for that report."

Mr. Adamski: "Tom Adamski, 9625 Melody Lane. Mr. Claussen, Mr. Frey..."

President Pucci: "Mr. Adamski, this is not a public participation."

Mr. Adamski: "No, I understand. I have a question regarding the ordinances under 2011-41 that Mr. Frey just mentioned."

President Pucci: "Okay, but this is not public participation."

Mr. Adamski: "I understand, but I have a question, that I believe we omitted one recommendation to Council."

President Pucci: "Maybe you could go ask Mr. Frey, and then if there is something..."

Mr. Adamski: "Then can you re-address it then, before Council votes on it?"

President Pucci: "Well if there's something that was omitted, we could have another meeting, and address it then, if there's another recommendation."

Mr. Adamski: "Thank you."

President Pucci: "Okay. We will be passing this this evening by emergency measure, because we do have a deadline to get this to the Board of Elections, so that it can get on the ballot. So we need... I'm sorry, let me read it first. **2011-41**. An Ordinance providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to the Municipal Charter. And these are the amendments that Mr. Frey just explained. So let's get a motion on the floor and then if there's any discussion we'll open up the floor for discussion."

Councilman Magrey: "Introduced by all, suspend the rules."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Second."

President Pucci: "Okay, are there any comments or questions, anything on this ordinance?"

Councilman Patta: "I do have a question, may I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Mr. Patta."

Councilman Patta: "The way it reads now, they've taken the duties of the Clerk of Council away from the Finance Director, but there's no indication in any of the amendments that we actually have a Clerk of Council now, under the Charter. Are we doing away with that?"

President Pucci: "I'm not trying to speak for the Charter Review Commission, because I think they had a discussion on what the different options are. Just because it's not in the Charter doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We would have to then pass an ordinance, before January 1st of 2012 to re-establish the position."

Councilman Patta: "Then who would have the power to hire the Clerk of Council?"

President Pucci: "Our Charter has a provision that the Mayor does the hiring..."

Councilman Patta: "But there's no Clerk of Council mentioned, so I'm not sure the Charter applies to that. Also..."

President Pucci: "The Mayor hires every employee of the city."

Councilman Patta: "Well I think that's a question. If we're talking about the separation of powers, now we have a Clerk of Council answering to the Mayor, not to Council."

President Pucci: "I personally agree with that. My hope would have been that it would have been included in the Charter, and it would have been specific that that position would come under Council. That's my own personal opinion."

Councilman Patta: "I'd like Mr. Claussen's opinion on this, as Law Director, as to how we get around the separation of powers if we have the Clerk of Council answering directly to the Mayor and not to Council."

President Pucci: "And just for the record, that's what we have now."

Dir. Claussen: "Yeah, that's what we have now"

Councilman Patta: "I'm not saying what we do now is right either."

President Pucci: "Right. I just want to mention..."

Councilman Patta: "We were supposed to review the Charter to find things that are wrong things in the Charter, and correct them for it to make the city better. If it's wrong, it's wrong. Whether it's been done this way 50 or 60 years or two years. What's wrong is wrong."

Dir. Claussen: "There are numerous cities who do this all different kinds of ways. I don't know that in fact it is wrong. However, I do understand, you know, the argument that, with regard to separation of powers, the Clerk of Council should be under the Council. I didn't look into whether it was legally wrong or ethically wrong, or anything like that. I know that we did bring it up, with regard to the Charter Review Commission. That was a topic that was brought up. And it was kind of like one of those things where, they just felt that it should be pulled out of the Finance Director's duties, because oftentimes Mary-Jo was doing those duties anyway. And it was more of one of those things where, they kind of left it up to Council and the Mayor to figure it out prior to."

Councilman Patta: "Didn't the Charter also provide that the Finance Director could appoint a designee?"

Dir. Claussen: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Then why was that, what was the necessity to do that then?"

Dir. Claussen: "It wasn't my decision."

Councilman Patta: "Well I asked for your opinion. You were there, I was not."

Dir. Claussen: "They just decided that they didn't feel that Mr. Kennedy should have those duties, and that, because Mary-Jo is doing substantially much of that work, or whoever was doing it, didn't fall under the auspices of the Finance Director, and they felt that it should come out. I mean, that's really all I can answer."

Councilman Patta: "Okay, thank you."

President Pucci: "Do you want Mr. Frey to answer?"

Councilman Patta: "No, that's quite alright."

President Pucci: "Does anyone else have any comments or questions on this ordinance? I'll make one comment, just to answer Mr. Slattery's question. Just to give you a little bit of brief background, prior to 2000, the Finance Director was a part-time position, and in addition to doing that part-time they also acted as the Clerk of Council, Secretary to Planning Commission and Civil Service. It was in 2000 that we hired a full-time Finance Director. Even prior to 2000, Mary-Jo, who's been in the Assistant Clerk's position for, since 1986, has always actually done the day to day work of the Clerk of Council. And there was an employee from the Building Department that does the work of the secretary of the Planning Commission; and there's an employee, another employee who does the work of the secretary to Civil Service Commission. So effectively, what's in the Charter is not really how we're operating and doing business, and it hasn't been for many, many years. And your, how you do business, should be reflected in the Charter. So I hope that answers your question. As far as the reduction in pay, Mr. Kennedy is at the same pay range as every director and Chief. And they work is actually not being done by the Finance Director, so I would not anticipate any reduction in pay. And there is more than enough for all our directors and Chiefs to do. So we will take a vote first to suspend the rules."

Clerk Banish: "To suspend the rules, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

Clerk Banish: "To adopt, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, next we have **ORDINANCE 2011-42**. Establishing party rental fees for use of the City of Brooklyn Ice Rink complex for group rentals. We will be passing this by emergency measure this evening so that we could get this in our next brochure. And because of that I will go over it so residents are aware of what we're doing. We already have a fee established for group party rentals for the Natatorium side of the building, this establishes very similar policy for groups who want to use the rink side. So Section 1 reads, the fee for the Ice Rink party rental space shall be as follows: resident party rental, 2 hour rental for 12 persons or less is \$40; each additional person over the 12 will be charged the current resident adult/student admission rate. A current City of Brooklyn Recreation Identification Card must be shown when making the reservation. Non-resident party rental, 2 hour rental for 12 persons or less, \$85; each

additional person over the 12 will be charged a current non-resident adult/student admission rate. Section 2. Available rental periods will be established by the Recreation Department Manager. Section 3. Rental fees must be paid one week in advance of the rental. Section 4. Refunds will be made if the rental is cancelled by the Recreation Departments. Refunds will not be made because of illness or non-attendance. So we need a motion to introduce by all, suspend the rules."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Introduced by all, suspend the rules."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To suspend the rules, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

Clerk Banish: "To adopt, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "**ORDINANCE 2011-43**. Authorizing the purchase of one Warren Salt Spreader from Jones Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$16,770. And we will also be passing this by emergency measure this evening so we can get this on order."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Introduced by all, suspend the rules."

Councilman DeMarco: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To suspend the rules, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

Clerk Banish: "To adopt, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "**ORDINANCE 2011-44**. An Ordinance providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to the Municipal Charter. And this is introduced by Mr. Patta. And before we open this up for discussion, I just wanted to point out, this kind of was done at the last minute, and I know it was a rush job. I, right before the meeting I had a couple concerns that I mentioned to Mr. Claussen, so I'm just going to make a couple suggestions in the wording, and see if everyone agrees with this or not. In Section 1, where it says 'The Council shall consist of...' the new one would be five, '...members, one member shall be elected at large by the people.' And then, really, your suggestion, Mr. Patta, was then that person would be Council President?"

Councilman Patta: "Well the person running for Council President would run city-wide."

President Pucci: "Okay. Okay. So, 'One member shall be elected at large by the people...' It would be here where, to make it read correctly, we would want to put a comma, '...who shall serve as President of Council.' I believe it's down in the Organizational section, but it really doesn't belong there. So then, the second issue would be, if you continue reading, '..except that...' the word seven is stricken, we would need to insert 'four' there. So 'The four members elected at the regular municipal election in November 2013.' And then the next one, there's, you can tell it's an accidental striking there, because the type is blue, but then there's accidentally a line through it. So that part, next part, should not be stricken. It should say, 'shall be a term of two years'. Is everyone on the same page so far? Are you good with that Mr. Patta?"

Councilman Patta: "Yes, I have some additional changes as well."

President Pucci: "Okay. Then if you go down to Section 3, the Article 3, Section 6 Organization, it would read, 'In January of this year the Council shall meet in the Council Chambers and organize.' Where it's in blue, 'The Council President shall be a member...', that whole section would come out, and then 'At such organizational meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter...' we would eliminate everything up to where it would be, 'The Council shall elect one Councilmember as President Pro-Tem...', and then it would go on from there. So we would be striking 'one Councilmember as President of Council.' Is everybody good with that? Okay. And then Mr. Patta, you have some other?"

Councilman Patta: "I do. Under Section 1 of Article 3, the line that is, the red line is taken out after 1951 should remain. It would be 'those receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for four years, and the remaining shall serve two years. Then those two that would be serving a two year term would run in two years for a four year term.' Because it mentions down below that the terms shall be for four years. That way you don't have Council necessarily changing 100% in one election, it'll be staggered the two wards. Four wards rather."

President Pucci: "Say that again."

Councilman Patta: "In 2013..."

President Pucci: "Okay, but when would the wards be drawn?"

Councilman Patta: "Those would have to be drawn before the 2013 election."

President Pucci: "Okay."

Councilman Patta: "The Councilpeople for the four wards receiving the two highest votes would serve for four year term. The winners of the ward elections that received the two lowest total count of vote would serve a two year term, and in two years would re-run for a four year term.' Which is the way the original Charter was originally set up so that your Councilmembers are staggered."

President Pucci: "Okay, but then how is it in 2015 all Councilmembers shall be up for election? That's where it's losing me."

Councilman Patta: "Okay, in 2013... Excuse me, that needs to be moved down. 2015 is the year where everyone would be up for election. Those receiving the two highest votes in 2015 would serve a four year term, those receiving the two lowest total number of votes winning the wards would serve a two year term and would run again in two years for a four year term."

President Pucci: "Okay, so actually, the verbiage after the regular municipal election in November of 2013, how I read the amendment..."

Councilman Patta: "Is correct, shall be for a term of two years."

President Pucci: "Okay, then period, then..."

Councilman Patta: "In 2015 all Councilmembers shall be up for election. For 2015 members would have to run as a Ward Councilmember for the one position of, or for the one position of Councilperson at Large."

Then it should state, 'the members receiving the highest number of votes shall serve a four year term. The two members receiving the highest number of votes shall serve a four year term, and the remaining two members shall serve a two year term and would run again in two years for a four year term.' "

President Pucci: "But the At-Large person would already..."

Councilman Patta: "The At-Large would remain starting in 2015 for four year terms."

President Pucci: "Okay."

Councilman Patta: "Only the Ward members would be staggered so the Council doesn't necessarily turn over every two years."

President Pucci: "Okay. Did you get all this Mr. Claussen?"

Dir. Claussen: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "And just so you know, I did not receive this until Thursday, or actually with the packets on Thursday, so I got it over the weekend. So I have not had a chance to review it with anyone before today."

President Pucci: "Okay. Do you have any concerns with any of the amendments as they were written? Or as they were spoken this evening?"

Dir. Claussen: "No, I don't believe so. No."

President Pucci: "Okay."

Councilman Patta: "And I would like to make a few comments if I may."

President Pucci: "Why don't we, if it's okay, why don't we vote to amend, because then it's in the record that this is what we're actually going to be voting on after, and then we'll open it up for discussion. Is that okay with you?"

Councilman Patta: "Sure."

President Pucci: "Okay, we need a motion to amend the amendments that were read into the record."

Councilman Patta: "Motion to amend."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To amend, Joe Magrey."
"Kevin Tanski."
"Kathy Pucci."
"Tony DeMarco."
"John Patta."
"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."
Councilman Tanski: "Yes."
Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."
Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."
Councilman Patta: "Yes."
Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

President Pucci: "Okay, so it's been amended. Okay, anyone want to be recognized? Mr. Patta?"

Councilman Patta: "Yes, thank you. As you're aware by now, I am the individual who proposed that we reduce the size of Council from seven members to five members, and also create wards. In my mind, creating wards does create more accountability and more efficiency. Quite often everyone on Council will receive an e-mail regarding one issue, and you have five, six or seven people trying to resolve the same issue, which is a lot of additional work that does not need to be done when one person could handle it just as easily as seven people. I want to address a couple of comments that were made, kind of in the order in which they came up. First was mentioned, with regard to the size of Council, Mr. Bloam mentioned that I believe there were 21 committees, and that's an awful lot of meetings. But not every committee meets every single month.

Some do, like Planning Commission, unless there's nothing pending; others do not. For example, the Fair Housing Board meets when there's a problem. I've been on the Fair Housing Board for a year and a half, we've not had a problem, therefore we've not had a meeting. So just because there's Council committees does not mean that they meet all the time. Safety Committee does not meet all the time. Many committees do not meet every single month.

There is a question, or a comment that, if we do go to wards and reduce the size of Council you're going to dissuade young people and people with young families from getting involved with the city. I think it's quite the opposite. I have a young family. I have a six year old and two year old. I work full-time, my wife works full-time. And I'm the one who proposed this ordinance. If you're looking at getting young people involved, the costs to run a citywide election for City Council is extremely expensive. If you're running in a ward it's going to make it more financially available to people who are younger who may not have the finances that an older person has. So in my mind you will have more people getting interested in running for Council if they're only running in the ward, as opposed to citywide. And just because there's wards does not mean the money would be split equally between wards if there are issues regarding streets. I don't think that's proposed, and I think it's kind of silly to say that, just because there's four wards we're going to split the money up four different ways. It's not going to be that way. It's going to be by what needs to be done most, and what streets are worst.

Mr. Adamski mentioned that I requested an emergency meeting to put this on tonight. I don't mind if people disagree with me, but when you know the facts are otherwise, I would suggest that you not come up here and misstate the facts. You know as well as I do the Charter Review Commission needs to have this approved by Council 90 days prior to the election, which would be in early August. Mr. Frey came up here some time early on in the process of the Charter Review Commission and clearly stated that he would be here before the last meeting in June to review all the changes the Charter Review Commission proposed. Well, the end of June's come, we're almost near the end of July, and we just received the information from Charter Review Commission within the last three or four days. And Mr. Adamski, no, I didn't not request this. You know that this meeting had been scheduled because of what the Charter Review Commission had to have done within 90 days of the election.

And there was a question as to why I waited until the last minute. We didn't receive your information on what the Charter Review Commission was going to do until the end of last week, and I found out that it was voted down early last week, and that's when I contacted Mr. Claussen and spoke to Mrs. Pucci regarding trying to get this on our next meeting, which would have been today. Or we even had discussed, if there's not time for Mr. Claussen to prepare the necessary paperwork, that it would perhaps go on another meeting following this one. Mr. Frey mentioned about my comments, he's looking for a map of the wards. And he didn't know what the wards would be. Well, if you read the proposal, it's not based on someone's income, and you know that, because I'm sure you read the proposal. It's based on the population. It's not based on anything else other than population to try to create four equal wards. That's how it is. And it's very disingenuous for you to claim otherwise it should be based upon income.

I believe the ultimate decision is not, and should not, be made by nine members of the Charter Review Commission or seven members of City Council. The ultimate decision should be made, and must be made, by the voters of our city. That's why I'm asking this legislation be put forward, and that the residents of our city be given an opportunity to vote for this. If they agree with me, fine; if they don't agree with me, that's fine too. But I think an important decision like this, and an important issue like this, the voters of the city should have their opportunity to be heard. Thank you.

President Pucci: "Thank you. Does anyone else want to be recognized?"

Councilman Magrey: "Could I be recognized?"

President Pucci: "Mr. Magrey."

Councilman Magrey: "Good evening everyone. Tonight as you all know we have Ordinance 2011-44 to submit to the electorate changes to our Charter, which were not submitted by the Charter Review Commission. First of all, let me make it very clear, that I have no problem at all with a resident taking petitions to Brooklyn residents to put something on the ballot. In fact I've done that myself in the past. It

gives the people the proper venue to appeal to the electorate. But this particular ordinance is not the proper venue. The Charter Review Commission did in fact review all suggestions and possible changes made by their members. They did so with great conviction, discussion, and conversation. The nine members may not have agreed with each other, but they performed their jobs, as outlined by our City Charter. Tonight Ordinance 2011-44 makes it appear that the decisions made by this Charter Review Commission should be shunned or ignored. This particular topic was definitely discussed with great detail by the Charter Review Commission. This ordinance appears to be an attempt to circumvent the recommendations made by the Charter Review Commission. It also gives the appearance that City Council is being used for one person's interests. While I support a person's right to be heard, I will not tolerate City Council being manipulated to go against the Commission. The Charter Review Commission was the proper venue for our City Charter to be altered. The nine people appointed to this Commission worked hard at reviewing our Charter. This legislation would be a major disrespect and disregard for the efforts made by the majority of the Charter Review Commission. Tonight we had a chance to listen to most of the members of the Charter Review Commission. I think, during the past few minutes, we saw that this is a poorly written ordinance, and it's very confusing, even to us here tonight. I encourage that Councilman Patta withdraw Ordinance 2011-44 before tonight's vote. I also find that I have some personal opinions on this. And I'm not going to bring those up tonight, whether I'm for or against the ideas. What I'm really against is the fact that this particular ordinance was brought up and trying to circumvent the hard work done by our Charter Review Commission. And so, with that, I hope that Mr. Patta does in fact withdraw this. That concludes my comments."

President Pucci: "Thank you. Does anyone else want to be recognized?"

Councilman DeMarco: "If I could be..."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "May I be recognized?"

Councilman DeMarco: "...recognized real quick."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "I'm sorry."

Councilman DeMarco: "No, go ahead."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Thanks."

President Pucci: "Mrs. Gallagher."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Sure. Thank you. I am the Councilperson who first initiated the conversation about reducing the number of Councilmembers from seven to five. The reason I believed that this reduction was necessary is because the population in the City of Brooklyn has been slowly shrinking for the last couple of decades. I asked Council President Kathleen Pucci to schedule a workshop session so I could hear what other members of Council felt about this issue. We had an active discussion regarding the reduction, but the majority of Councilmembers felt this would not be good for the city. As a result, I put the suggestion on the back burner. Tonight we have this very issue before us again, which includes reducing Council and adding four wards to the city. We have seven Council At-Large seats, which allows residents to call various members. Moreover, there are areas in this city which are not conducive to breaking up the city in wards. If Brooklyn was a larger city like Parma, wards would make sense. However, we live in a small city, and have seen a decrease in population. Because of our small population, I recommend reducing Council, but not dividing the city in wards. Since this issue was not presented as two separate matters, I cannot support this issue as it is presented right now. My thanks to all the members of the Charter Review Commission for all your hard work and dedication to the city. And that concludes my report."

President Pucci: "Thank you Mrs. Gallagher. Mr. DeMarco."

Councilman DeMarco: "Thank you. Just real basically, I would also like to thank the Charter Review Commission, all the members. I know that with Greg's leadership, you methodically went through the entire Charter from beginning to end, and came up with the I think five items at this point for voter approval in the fall. I think it's a little disingenuous, if you've stayed in contact with your appointment to the Charter Review Commission, we've known for some time now that this issue had spoken about on several occasions within

the Charter Review Commission, and there was no support for it. And this goes back many months. So to bring this up, in my opinion, at a last minute effort, is strictly political in my opinion. And that's all I have to say."

President Pucci: "Does anyone else have anything they'd like to say? Mr. Tanski?"

Councilman Tanski: "I also would like to thank the Charter Review Commission, for your effort, your time, to go through all these articles one by one, and come up with the best solutions. I'm grateful for that, and your time. And that's all I've got to say."

President Pucci: "Thank you. Everyone is finished? Okay. Just briefly, my comments. First I do want to clarify part of the role of the Charter Review Commission, and it is in our Charter that they shall review and recommend. So anything coming out of the Charter Review Commission comes out of that Commission with their recommendation that they believe it's in the best interest of our community. It's not, you know, someone has one idea or someone has another and just put it out there for the voters. I too would like to thank all the members of the Charter Review Commission for the time you gave to this effort, and your dedication to our community. Once the Commission disbands in the fall after the election, we will thank you in a more appropriate manner; but I think you have all of our heartfelt thanks for giving of your time. Regarding the issue of dividing the city into wards, I am opposed to wards, because I sincerely believe that it's not in the best interest of our community. When you run At-Large, you can have the greater good of the entire community as your priority, not only what is in the best interest of one particular area. When a community is divided into wards it creates a competition between the Councilmembers for the city resources for funding, for roads, sidewalks, and other projects. Members of Council... I mean, this is just reality. That members of Council would be under pressure to make sure that city resources were directed to their wards. Wards, basically, can create an atmosphere of turf wars. Most suburbs with wards also have some At-Large members to balance those that are elected from wards. But this proposal only has one At-Large member who would act as the President. So again, I sincerely believe that to establish wards in our community would be very divisive at a time when we need to come together as a community. I'm assuming, Mr. Patta, that you want to put this on emergency measure."

Councilman Patta: "Yes I do."

President Pucci: "Okay, is there a motion to suspend the rules?"

Councilman DeMarco: "Introduced by all, suspend the rules."

Councilman Patta: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To suspend the rules, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

Clerk Banish: "To adopt, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "No."

Councilman Tanski: "No."

Councilwoman Pucci: "No."

Councilman DeMarco: "No."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "No."

President Pucci: "So the motion fails six votes to one. Does any other Council... I'm sorry, five votes to one. Does any other Councilmember have anything they'd like to say?"

Councilman DeMarco: "Motion to adjourn."

Councilman Tanski: "Second."

President Pucci: "Before we adjourn, I've just got a couple quick things. We received communication from Mr. Verba. I just want to get it out there to the residents. There will be a night work being done on Tiedeman Road Thursday, July 21st, Friday, June 22nd. They will be working in the evening from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Letters are going to go out I believe tomorrow to every resident on Tiedeman Road. But just so we're all aware, it's not going to be closed, but there will be night work done. I just received a letter last week that I want to share from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. 'Dear Big Creek Watershed Planning Partnership. On behalf of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, I would like to congratulate you on your successful effort to achieve endorsement for the Big Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan. At its June 15, 2011 meeting the Commission unanimously approved the endorsement of the plan.' And I'm reading just parts of this. 'The areas which you have selected as priority development areas and priority conservation areas will now serve as direction to the agencies of the State of Ohio. This plan offers the opportunity for state and local collaboration to encourage well planned development while conserving critical areas across the Watershed. The state looked to the Friends of Big Creek, serving as the Big Creek Watershed Planning Partnership, and to the local governments within the Watershed to keep the plan current, implement the recommendations contained in the plan, and honor the priority areas that have been locally identified.' This was a committee that I had worked on, and last year we had a work session on this, and Council did adopt the Balanced Growth Plan. So, just so we know, it was approved at the state level. And just to end on a positive note, I would like to give a shout out to the Brooklyn High School Class of 1971. My husband had his 40th reunion over the weekend, and very warmly welcoming people. I was not a member of that class. But one thing was very apparent to me by the end of the evening, and that was, whether the members of the class still lived in the City of Brooklyn or not, for some they moved out for a time and moved back in, they all shared one thing, they genuinely care about our community, and they are very proud to be from the City of Brooklyn. Do we have a motion to adjourn."

Councilman DeMarco: "Motion to adjourn."

Councilman Tanski: "Second."

Clerk Banish: "To adjourn, Joe Magrey."

"Kevin Tanski."

"Kathy Pucci."

"Tony DeMarco."

"John Patta."

"Colleen Gallagher."

Councilman Magrey: "Yes."

Councilman Tanski: "Yes."

Councilwoman Pucci: "Yes."

Councilman DeMarco: "Yes."

Councilman Patta: "Yes."

Councilwoman Gallagher: "Yes."

Meeting adjourned.

Asst. Clerk of Council

President of Council